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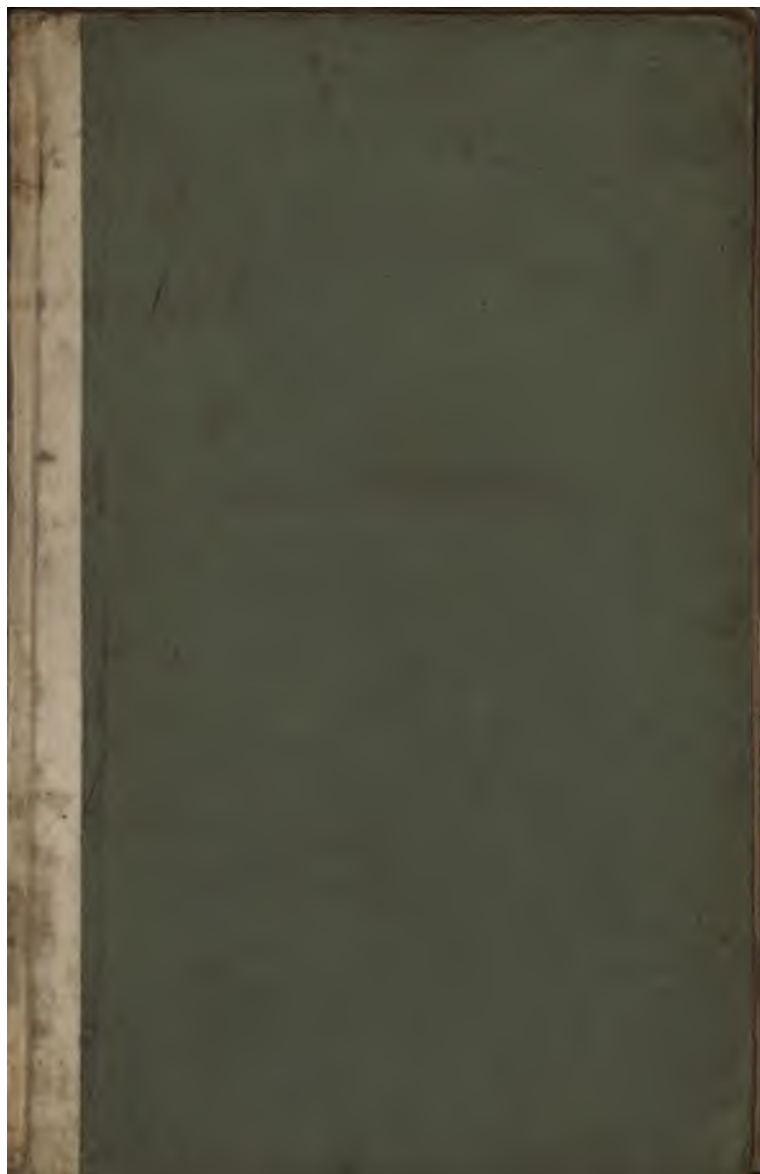
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THE
Standing Orders
AND
RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
SOCIETY
FOR PROMOTING
Christian Knowledge.

L O N D O N:


Printed by Joseph Downing, in
Bartholomew-Close near West Smith-
field, 1717.

1



THE
Standing Orders
AND
RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
Society, &c.

*Orders relating to the Society
in General.*

- I.  H A T this Society be called by the Name of *The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*, and that they meet Weekly on every *Thursday*, at Five of the Clock in the Evening precisely.

II. That no Business be begun till the Devotions agreed upon by the Society are perform'd ; and if the Day of Meeting happens to be on a *Holy-Day*, the Collect for the Day shall be added to the Prayers, which the *Secretary* is to put the Society in mind of.

III. That the Chair be filled Monthly by a Rotation of Members, that shall be present the last *Thursday* of every Month, according to their Seniority in the Society, excepting in that Month when the Society shall have their general Anniversary Meeting to Dine together ; and that this Order be read when a Choice of Chairman is to be made.

IV. That the Chairman shall attend at each Meeting in the Month he is to serve ; but in Case of his Absence, he may depute any Resident Member in his Room ; and that it be the Chairman's Part to preserve Order, prevent Heats, and to take Care that no one interrupts another in Speaking.

V. That no Business shall be begun before Five a Clock ; nor then, unless the Chairman and Four more of the Resident Members be present.

VI. That in the Want of a sufficient Number of Members to make a *Quorum*, any two Residing Members, with the *Secretary*, may peruse the Letters sent to the Society, and direct the Abstracting of them.

VII. That three Residing Members do make a *Quorum*, to do Business at the Committee.

VIII. That at every Meeting of the Society, the Minutes taken the preceding Meeting shall be read twice over ; then the Abstracts of Letters of the said Day ; after which, all new Motions and Reports shall be made, and Letters read.

IX. That before any Person be admitted a Residing Member, the Person who proposes him shall assure the Society of his having taken the Oaths, and that he is well affected to His Majesty King *GEORGE* and His Government, and to the Church of *England* as by Law Establish'd : That such Proposal be made at two several Meetings, and then, if it be thought fit to procede, (except in the Case after-mentioned,) two of the Residing Members shall be desired to enquire, Whether the Person propos'd be of a

sober and religious Life and Conversation, and of an humble and charitable Disposition? After whose Report, the Society shall proceed to choose or refuse such Person: And the Members directed to make such Enquiry, are to make their Reports either by Word or Writing, at the next Meeting: And that this Order be read, when such Enquiry is directed. But when any Bishop of the Church of *England* is propos'd as aforesaid, he may be chose a Member, without any such Enquiry.

X. That the Choice of Resident Members be made by Balloting; as also the Determination of such Questions as the Society shall not otherwise decide; which Balloting shall be made by the Resident Members only; and for preventing the Messenger from presenting the Box to any other, this Order shall be read upon every Occasion of Balloting; and when the Numbers in Balloting are equal, it be in the Power of the Chairman to determine the Matter.

XI. That every Person chosen a Residing Member, do, at his Admission, or if not in Town, upon Notice of his Election, pay or cause to be paid down

a voluntary Sum to the Treasurer for the Time being ; and do also subscribe, or cause to be subscrib'd, a Yearly Sum, to be paid Quarterly, for carrying on the Designs of the Society: But the Corresponding Members may attend the Meetings of the Society, without being oblig'd to make such Subscriptions, in regard of the Charge they are suppos'd to be at, in promoting the same Designs in or about the respective Places of their Abode.

XII. That no Member do withdraw his Subscription from this Society, without a previous Notice of three Months.

XIII. That no Person be taken Notice of on the Minutes as a Resident Member, till he has paid down and subscribed by himself, or Proxy, as mentioned Order XI.

XIV. That the *Secretary*, once a Quarter, lay before the Society, a List of such as have been chosen for Resident Members ; to the End, that those that have not attended and subscribed, may be called upon by the Persons that propos'd them.

XV. That every Person propos'd for a Corresponding Member, shall stand propos'd a Week before he be admitted ; and that no one, except a Foreigner, be chosen a Corresponding Member, before the Society is certify'd of his Willingness to correspond with them ; and that such Choice be declar'd in the Minutes.

XVI. That if any Corresponding Member shall omit to correspond with the Society, by Letter or otherwise, for twelve Months, the *Secretary* shall give Notice of such Omission to the Society.

XVII. That this Society will always decline the Intermeddling with such Matters as are Foreign to their Design of Promoting Christian Knowledge.

XVIII. That no Order propos'd for a Standing Order, shall be esteemed such, till three Months after its being propos'd ; and that a Copy of all such Orders be laid before the Chairman every first *Thursday* in the Month.

XIX. That none of the Standing Orders be repeal'd, suspended, or alter'd, till such Repeal, Suspension, or Alteration, has been propos'd at two successive

cessive Meetings, and not determined till a third Meeting, when there shall be at least Nine Members present ; and that the same Rule be observ'd for revoking or altering any Thing that has been settled by Balloting.

XX. That it be recommended to every Member, to pray to Almighty God for a Blessing on the Consultations and Endeavours of the Society.

XXI. That when any Member of the Society is indispos'd, and desires the Prayers of the Society, that the Collect or Collects used in the Office for Visiting the Sick, be added to the Collects used by the Society.

XXII. That the Orders of this Society be read the first *Thursday* after every Quarter Day, before any new Motion is made ; and that the *Secretary* do put the Chairman in mind thereof.

Orders relating to the Treasurer.

I. **T**HAT a distinct Account be kept of all Gifts made to the Society.

II. That the Accounts of this Society be Audited every Year, within a Month after *Christmas*: and that an Account of all Arrears be, upon the Report of such Audit, laid before the Society; and that such Members as shall be found in Arrear above Eight Quarters, be put in mind thereof by the *Secretary*.

III. That no Sum exceeding *Forty Shillings* be dispos'd of, without considering the State of the Society's Cash.

IV. That the Treasurer do, after every Quarter Day, send to all the Resident Members, one of a Sort of all new Books and Papers admitted by the Society the preceding Quarter.

Orders relating to the Secretary.

I. **T**HAT the Secretary do make an Abstract of all Letters sent to and from the Society, and enter the same in a Book to be kept for that
Pur-

Purpose; And also enter into another Book, Copies of all General Letters sent by the Society, and such others as the Society shall direct.

II. That all Letters be directed to the Secretary, to be left at the Reverend Mr. *Shute's*, and brought to the Society by the Messenger.

III. That the Secretary do, at the Beginning of each Quarter, lay before the Society an Abstract of the most material Transactions of the preceding Quarter.

IV. That there be an Index of Names and Things contained in the Abstract of Letters, and in the Minutes.

V. That the Secretary do enter the Accounts of the Society into the Great-Book, immediately after every Audit.

VI. That the Account of Charity-Schools be, for the future, ready to be sent to the Press at *Whisfunside*, without waiting for any further Account from the Correspondents.

VII. That a Copy of all the Standing Orders of the Society, be laid before the Chairman at every Meeting of the Society.

VIII. That a List be made Yearly of all the Corresponding Members to whom Packets are sent, and that the same be laid before the Society within a Month after all the Packets are sent away.

IX. That Copies of such Things as are especially directed to be preserv'd among the Society's Papers, be henceforth entered into a Book for that Purpose.

X. That the Secretary lay before the Society, at every Meeting, an Account of such Business as remains undetermin'd.

Orders relating to the Choice of Books.

THAT no Manuscript be printed, nor any Printed Book or Paper bought, in order to be dispers'd by the Society, but such as shall have been first approv'd in manner following; that is to say, When any Manuscript or Printed Book, &c. shall be recom-

recommended to the Society, such Manuscript, or Printed Book, &c. shall be referr'd to the Committee, to consider, Whether a Book on such a Subject be wanting, or may be useful to the Designs of the Society ; and if they are of Opinion, such a Book may be useful, it shall be referr'd to the Perusal of Four Resident Members, to be severally nam'd at Four several Meetings, who are to report their Opinions thereof to the Society as soon as may be ; after which, if it be thought fit to proceed, it shall be determined by Balloting, whether such Manuscript shall be printed, or such Book bought, in order to be dispersed.

II. That the Time for such Determination concerning a Printed Book, &c. shall be the last *Thursday* in the Month, wherein the last Report touching the same is made ; and if a Manuscript, it shall be the last *Thursday* in the following Month, after the last Report concerning such Manuscript is made : And in the mean time, Copies of such Printed Book, &c. and such Manuscript, shall lie on the Table,

for

for the Perusal of any other of the Members if they please.

III. That no Book or Paper receiv'd by the Society, of which they have the Property, be reprinted without a new Order.

IV. That any Paper drawn up by the Committee, and afterwards read and approv'd of by the Society, may be Printed, and dispers'd as the Society shall think fit, without being examin'd in the Manner aforesaid.

V. That the Sermon preach'd at the Anniversary Meeting of the Children educated in the Charity-Schools, with the Account of the said Schools; The Sermon at the Anniversary Meeting of *The Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts*; and The Anniversary Sermon before *The Societies for Reformation of Manners*, may be printed and dispers'd, without such Perusal and Examination as aforesaid.

VI. That if any Book, approv'd of in Manner aforesaid, shall be alter'd, or receive any Additions, such Book shall not be printed or dispers'd, till such Alterations, or Additions, shall have been referr'd to the Committee, and afterwards approved by the Society.

Orders

Orders relating to the Packets.

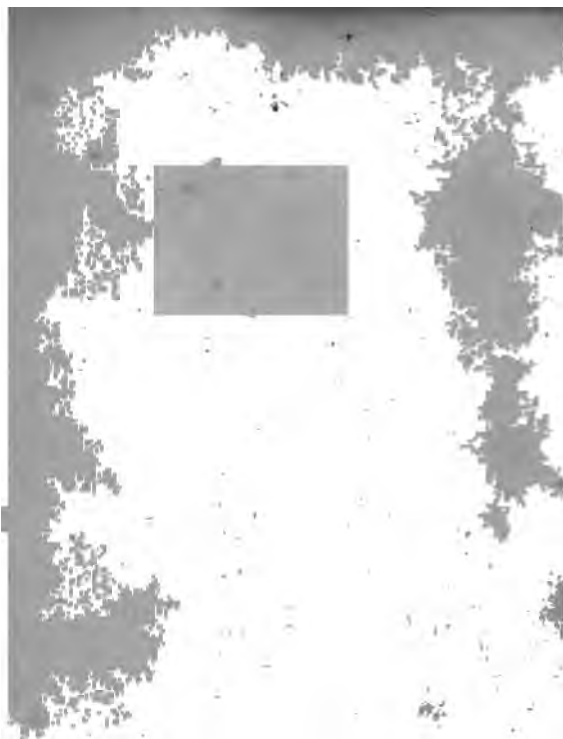
I. **T**HAT a Packet of the Society's Books and Papers, be sent to each Resident Member at his Admission.

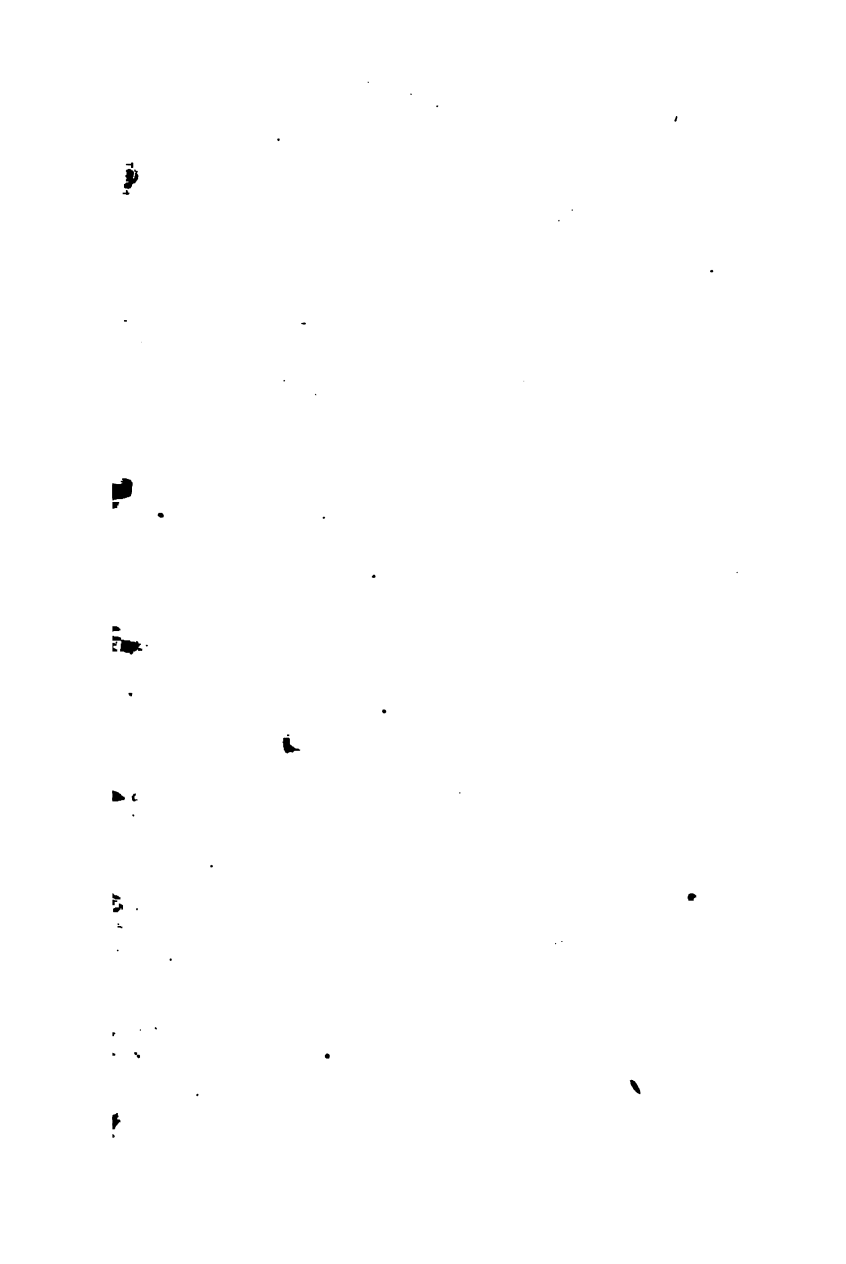
II. That but one occasional Parcel be sent to each of the Correspondents in one Year; and that the same be forwarded as soon as the Yearly Account of Charity-Schools, and the Sermon, be printed, without staying for any other Book.

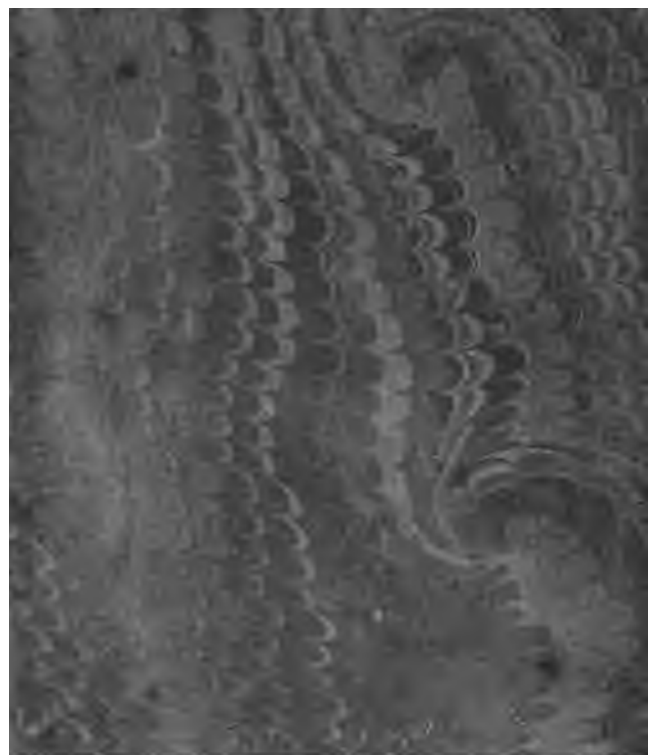
III. That no Book or Paper be at any Time put into the Society's Packet, but by their Order; excepting such Books or Papers relating to the Protestant Mission to the *East-Indies*, as the *Malabar* Committee shall appoint.

F I N I S.









1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee.

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